

John Crock "I was born in Trenton, Lancashire, England October 11, 1831. My father heard of the new religion and went to Bolton to hear them preach, and in September 1840, he, and Robert Holden, were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In the spring of 1847, I was baptized by Uncle Peter Mayho in the brook of Hallith Wood...

"Jan. 1st, 1851. We left Old England to come to America in the ship Ellen. There were about 475 passengers. On the 16th of March a tug boat took two more vessels besides ours up to New Orleans. On March 18th we started up the river for St. Louis; we paid \$2.50 per head, baggage free. On the 25th we landed in St. Louis. It was very cold. Snow on the ground while there; stayed until April 13th, then started for Kanesville. Twenty days on the road, on a sand bar three days; very cold weather; river very low. Landed all safe May 2nd. The Saints were fitting to start for Salt Lake City, Utah.

"In the spring father worked six weeks fitting up wagons. They said all should go that wanted to go. But when the time came around for going we could not get a chance to go - no more room, they said. My brother-in-law, Edmund Kay, and I worked two or three weeks chopping and splitting timber for wagons and we were engaged to go with a train of machinery for working up the beets into sugar in charge of John Taylor and Russell. But father said we must stay and all go together, if we could get a chance....

"All the talk through the winter and spring was to fit up and prepare in a body to gather with the Saints in Utah the coming summer. So everyone that could work turned in and were organized in companies, some working fitting up wagons, chains and yokes, etc., others in timber splitting and preparing the timbers. About the first of May they commenced organizing companies and starting them out. Apostle Orson Hyde and Feramorz Little were in charge of this season's emigration. About twenty companies, I think, left for Utah. All that could possibly fit up did so, some yoking up cows and yearling steers. I saw several teams with yearlings yoked in.

"When father was told there was no show for him to get away he felt very bad over it, after the authorities promising that all that turned in and worked none should be left behind. In fact he never seemed to get over it. He seemed to have no life left for anything, and in the month of July he took the chills and fever. In about two weeks he as a corpse - died broken hearted. He died on the 2nd of August and on the 3rd was buried in the cemetery, one half mile north of Kanesville....

"In peddling Ice I became acquainted with my future wife, then Mary Giles. The family of William Giles were intending to move to Utah in the spring of 1856, so I concluded to sell out and move also. I bought a light wagon and two yoke of steers, costing me \$250.00 in all. By the time I was ready to start on the journey I had about ten dollars left. It was understood that a company of Saints would be organized about the first of June, 1856. So the Giles folks, some four wagons of them, and myself gathered in a ravine south of the city called Hang Hollow, making up and preparing our necessary outfits.

"About the first of June 1856, we left Hang Hollow for Florence, Nebraska. The gathering place was about six miles from Bluff City across the Missouri River. We crossed our wagons on a ferry boat the second day of June. The first company of Saints to cross the plains was organized on the fourth of June under the direction of Philemon Merrill, as captain, who had crossed the plains nine times before. The company consisted of fifty wagons, divided into companies of ten with a sub-captain.



## HISTORY OF JOHN CROOK

John Crook was born October 11, 1831, in Trenton, Lancashires, England. He married Mary Giles September 6, 1856. John died March 31, 1921 at the age of eighty-nine years, one of the stalwart builders of the valley.

John Crook together with Robert Holden, were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the Spring of 1847. John was baptized by Uncle Peter Mayho in the Brook of Hallith Wood. On January 1st, 1851 he left Old England for America, arrived in Salt Lake City August 15th, 1856. In his Diary, he relates many interesting incidents of the trip to America, the good times and the hard times. He was an ice peddler when he decided to come to Utah with the Giles family (William Giles), a daughter of this family, Mary, later became his wife. They came to Utah in the E. B. Tripps' Company. He married Mary Giles September 6, 1856 in Provo City. In June 1859 the West half of Heber was laid off in City lots, and in July he moved camp to that City and commenced hauling logs and building a house. When Wasatch Stake was organized July 5, 1877 and Heber was divided into East and West Wards, John Crook was chosen first counselor to Bishop William Forman of the Heber West Ward. He was especially interested in Music, genealogy and history and was considered one of Wasatch County's best historians. He was the first choir leader in Heber. His vocation was farming and stock raising and he was the owner of the first red sandstone quarries in this area.

Mary Giles Crook was born April 13, 1833 in Calvertson, Nottingshire, England, to William Giles and Sarah Huskinson. She died September 5, 1888.

Mary Giles Crook was married about a month after their arrival to Utah, she and John Crook were married by Bishop Jonathan O. Duke, Sr. Their first home was a covered wagon box, their next home was a two-room adobe house. The winters of 56 and 57 were very severe and the snow was very deep, her husband John hauled willows from the River bottoms for firewood, some times while working he would sink up to his armpits in the snow. In the fall of 56 wheat was scarce and flour was \$6.00 per hundred lbs., she like many other pioneer women had to grind the wheat by hand in the little coffee mill. In November of 59 a baby girl came to the home of John and Mary Crook, they named her Sarah Elizabeth, this was the second child born in the valley. The home was built in the Fort, thus protecting them from the Indians. After leaving the Fort they built a three-room log house, later a red sand stone home which is still standing and is occupied by a grand-daughter, Mable Crook Lyon. The sand stone was from John's quarry, 5 miles East of Town. At the time of the Diphtheria epidemic, she went into the homes and helped care for the sick and dying. She acted as a counselor in the Relief Society to President Katie Forman.

Children: John William; Mrs John Carhile (Sarah Elizabeth); Heber Giles; George and Franklin (both died in infancy); Mrs Johothan Ol Duke (Mary Jane); Thomas Huskinson; Frederick, and Mrs Joseph Callister (Margaret Ann);

*conf  
compiled by Ethel D Johnson  
a granddaughter*

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cattle to the range some three miles north and beyond Ensign Peak, there to be herded until such time as all parties had made arrangements to scatter throughout the territory wherever friends or connections resided.

" On September 6, 1856 I married Mary Giles in Provo City. We bought ten acres of land joining on the east line of Provo City and got James E. Snow, county surveyor of Utah county, to divide it up into lots, giving us two lots each, six families of the Giles connections. Each sold a yoke of cattle to purchase bread stuffs also land for farming purposes. We made some adobes and built two small houses for the Giles families. Next year we built two more houses, one for me and wife and one for Thomas Rasband and family.

" This was the agreement to work together until we all had houses to live in...

" Along in June, 1859 the west half of Heber was laid off in city lots, and in July we moved camp to that city and then commenced hauling logs and building a house. In the spring of 1860 many families moved up from Provo, I believe forty families. On the 14th of July, William Fenn was found drowned in the Provo River. The river was high and in crossing on foot the current took him down. He had been in the stream about two weeks. Had to move him on a sheet, dug a hole in the bank of the river and buried him there. Father Wood acted as coroner."

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John Crook died March 31, 1921 at the age of eighty-nine years, one of the stalwart builders of the valley. - Ethel Johnson

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A TRIBUTE TO JOHN AND MARY GILES CROOK  
BY HAZEL CARLILE KNIGHT (GRANDDAUGHTER)

The year was 1831 in "Merry Ol' England" when John Crook took his first breath of earthly life. Little did he realize what the future would hold for him. At the age of 16 he joined the "Mormon Church" and five years later arrived in Salt Lake City. It was perhaps by chance that he chose to travel to Utah with the William Gilea family. It was less than a month after their arrival in Utah that he chose one of the Giles girls to be his companion for life. John and Mary were married in Provo on September 6, 1856 and in 1859 he began hauling logs and building a house in Heber. Families had agreed to remain behind in Provo until log cabins could be built and other preparations made for their coming. Tearfully, Mary stood by that April morning as she watched her husband start out toward Provo Canyon and a new life..

Winter and the forces of nature had played havoc with the road in many places and traveling was slow. In addition, several snowslides blocked the route, making the journey hazardous as well as exhausting.

John Crook wrote in his diary, "April 30, 1859, we camped at a snowslide in Provo Canyon that night. The next morning we pulled our wagons to pieces and carried them to the top of the snowslide which was about a quarter of a mile wide. Our May Day excursion consisted of traveling on up the canyon from the snowslide to William Wall's ranch where we camped. The next day we crossed Daniels' Creek on the ice. There were heavy drifts of snow behind the willow bushes. We thought we were the first settlers to arrive in the valley that Spring, but when we reached the present site of Heber we saw two teams plowing north of us."

They made their first camp near a spring which was considered to be the best land in the valley. Since most men in the camp had come from Great Britian they named it London Springs.

Much of the land was covered with sagebrush, which proved very thick and hard to clear. Yet with a prayer in their hearts and a song of faith on their lips they cleared away the brush and planted not only the seeds of new crops but also the seeds of new homes and a new valley for themselves and those they loved.

Work in the summer was all done by hand.. Hay, wheat and other crops were cut with scythe and stored for the long winter months. Winter in Heber Valley was a test of faith and stamina. Snows and bitter, blowing winds came early and lasted long. In the high valley frosts were heavy in September and snows were on the ground in October. Spring sunshine rarely melted the earth's snow crust until late March or April, leaving only about five summer months to prepare for cold, ice and snow all over again.

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The short days and long crisp winter nights were spent building furniture and making clothes. Plows had to be sharpened and harrows made ready for the sagebrush and soil. Their constant prayer was that the elements would be tempered so they could mature crops and sustain themselves and their families in the new country. During the long winter months they were isolated from the rest of the world except for an adventurous Christmas visitor or two.

John Crook proved to be a valuable asset to their new community. His many talents were utilized and enjoyed by the other settlers. In addition to being a counselor to the Bishop he also had special interest in genealogy, music, and history. Thanks to his efforts we now have a record of the early history of the valley. John organized the first choir in Heber and directed it for many years. Many enjoyed listening to his fine voice as he sang at various programs. John also was instrumental in organizing and producing some of the dramatic activities of the valley. He served as both officier and actor. For many years he reported and kept track of the weather conditions in the valley as well as serving with the county militia during times of trouble.

Grand pa shose farming as his vocation but also owned the first red sandstone quarries in the area. His grandchildren can recall what a lovely garden he had--the rows were very long and you could see him early in the morning out on his hands and knees weeding. He raised apples and cherries. Hazel and Emma remember how they used to steal an occassional apple from his trees.

For nearly 33 years after the death of his wife he knitted his own socks but would get his daughter Sarah Carlile to "turn the heel and toe it off." These socks were usually made out of heavy white yarn. His granddaughters Emma and Hazel had to go to his home every two weeks and do the cleaning. They swept, scrubbed and did other household chores.

Mary, like good L.D.S. women supported and helped her husband. In fact the story is told that Grandpa "made the bullets and she shot them."

Their first home was a covered wagen box, then they moved into an adobe two room house within the walls of the fort. Here their first child Sarah Elizabeth was born. She being the second child born in the valley. After leaving the fort they lived in a three room log house and later a red sandstone home which is still in use today. This was built from John's sandstone quarry five miles east of town.

Mary was often seen in the homes of the sick and dying helping and caring for their needs. She was active in Relief Society and served as a counselor in that organization.

Grandma loved good clothes. She always chose the best material, and was an excellent seamstress and her appearance was always neat and clean.

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It has been said she never would use a broken or cracked dish in her home. She was a very good housekeeper.

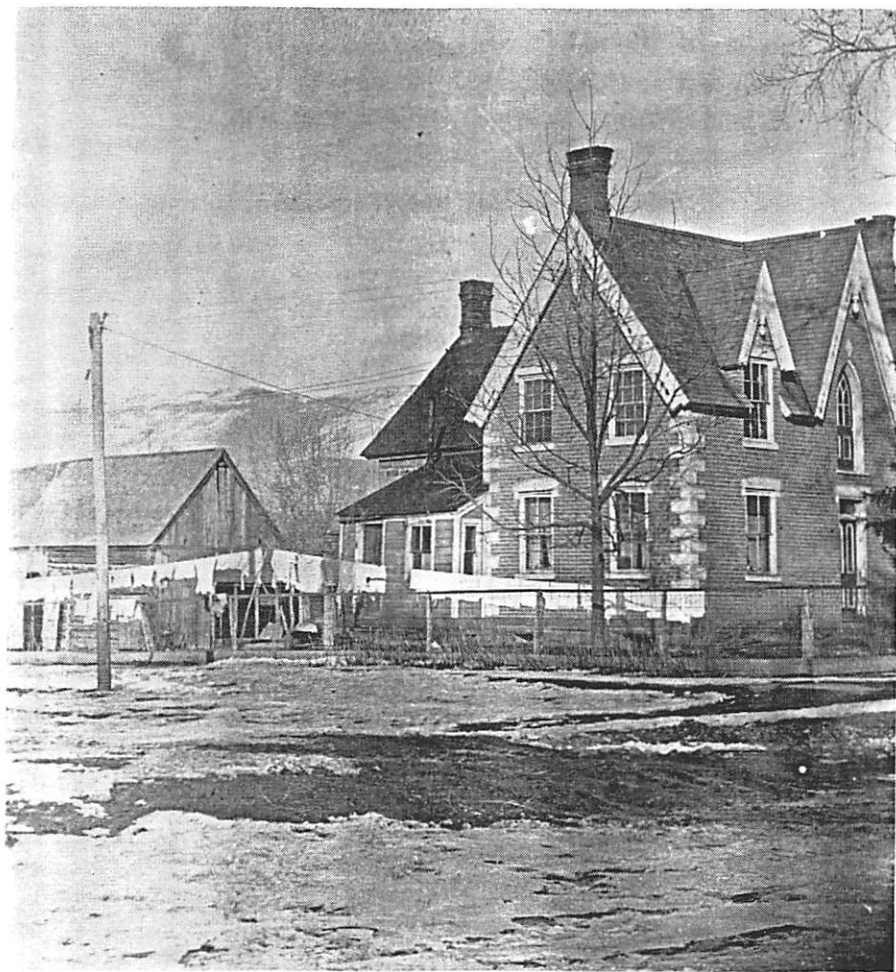
She died September 5, 1888, at the age of 55 after laying several months in bed as a result of a stroke.

These two fine people left to the world seven children (two more died in infancy) and a rich heritage. Although they were not known to express their gratitude and offer thanks for services rendered they taught their progenators the value of hard work and spiritualness and faith in God.

11-11-11



Brent Groth 654-3079  
188 W 300 No Heber



The old John Crook home constructed from brick manufactured at the Van Wagoner brick yards in Wasatch County.

of Sanpete and Sevier Counties to a reservation in eastern Wasatch County. The Indians, led by Chief Black Hawk were bitter about the move and refused to stay on the reservation land. They roamed over the state and on April 10, 1865 became involved in an incident with white settlers near Manti in Sanpete County. A white person was reported, in a drunken state, to have pulled an Indian off a horse and insulted him. The Indians needed only this slight provocation to go on the warpath.

By the Spring of 1866 the Indians were making general raids, stealing cattle and threatening the lives of the white settlers. Several men were killed in Sanpete and Sevier counties during raids, and because

